

**City of Fairfax  
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB)  
Meeting Minutes  
12/11/2014  
City Hall, Work Session Room**

**PRAB Members Present**

Brian Knapp  
Esther Nasjleti  
Jane Albro  
Michael Anderson  
Michael Breslin  
Jeff Ferrell  
Joseph Harmon  
Evie Ifantides

Robert M. Reinsel  
Zinta Rodgers-Rickert  
Michael Slawski  
Jon Stehle  
Harry Wilbur  
Michael McCarty  
Kirk Holley

**Members Absent**

All in attendance

**Guests**

Julie Miles, Parks & Recreation Dept.

**Eagle Scout Project**

Eagle Scout “Sound Garden” at Green Acres presentation delayed until January or February. Scout requires more information and data from community to make a complete proposal.

**Recognition of Brian Knapp’s Award**

Director Michael McCarty recognized Chairman Brian Knapp for his Volunteer of the Year Award presented at the VRPS conference this past weekend. Director McCarty thanked Brian for his service to the City as well as his service as a PRAB board member. He encouraged more board members to attend next year’s conference to take place in November at Virginia Beach.

**Announcement**

Chairman Brian Knapp made the announcement that this evening’s meeting would be Esther Nasjleti’s last as a board member. Esther has served the board for several years playing an instrumental role in trail research, strategic planning and park stewardship. Chairman Knapp and other PRAB members thanked Esther for her service over the years.

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:10pm by Chairman Brian Knapp.

**2. Approval of Minutes, Adoption of Agenda**

Minutes from PRAB meeting Thursday, November 13<sup>th</sup> 2014 were approved as modified.

The agenda was approved as modified was approved as presented with a motion by Kirk Holley and seconded by Jeff Ferrell.

**3. Old Business:**

### **a) Budget Update**

Director Michael McCarty presented the capital budget to the City Council and Planning Commission at the December 2, 2014 City Council Work Session. At that presentation there were several questions from City Council on items in the capital budget. Director McCarty distributed a copy of a draft budget memo addressing the questions from City Council.

Both Brian Knapp and Mike McCarty were encouraged by the positive that the council expressed; many Council members seem to be speaking the same language when it came to issues of funding and priorities.

Notes:

- Robert Reinsel- requested information on Shiloh Park
- Chairman Brian Knapp- Encouraged the PRAB board members to start reaching out to members of council in preparation for the budget approval on April 29<sup>th</sup> 2015.
- Director McCarty reminded everyone that the Operational Budget did not have completed numbers and will be done by January. Director McCarty will provide a budget overview at the January PRAB meeting.

### **b) Capital Funding Resolution**

Chairman Brian Knapp requested a motion to approve and resolve the Capital Funding Resolution, as recently circulated to PRAB members. Several PRAB members made comments and suggested changes;

- Ester Nasjleti requested two wording changes, 1) on page 2 word removal of “and” after our bond 2) again on page 2 structure of resolution to match on both locations on the page.
- Robert Reinsel suggested deciding on hard number to ask for in the funding, not 2-3 million. He suggested going with 2 million to give a definite dollar amount. A discussion followed on Robert’s proposal.
- Kirk Holley voiced a concern about the amount change and voiced a request to keep it at 2-3 million. A majority of PRAB members agreed to retain the wording of 2-3 million.
- Kirk Holley also voiced a concern for the wording of revenue return in the plan and possibly some incentive to staff and includes target areas such as sites/programs. The argument would be that Parks and Recreation staff is taking a pro-business approach to this plan as justification.
- Joseph Harmon made a motion to approve the resolution on Capital Funding as amended. Harry Wilbur seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## **4. New Business**

### **a) Park Rules**

Director McCarty presented a proposal for changes and additions to the Park Rules, noting that they have not been updated since 2007. He added that the changes to the rules now were similar to the rules structure and language used by Fairfax County Park Authority which would keep the rules easier for both staff and users to understand. Director McCarty requested that PRAB board members give feedback on the proposed rule changes.

- Chairman Brian Knapp noted the addition of interactive water guidelines located on page 7. He also noted that there was no *Trails Definition* included.

- Kirk Holley raised a question about the Voluntary Tobacco Free Zones including the shelters. He also proposed that Archery be included in a Projectiles portion of the guidelines.
- Esther Nasjleti raised a question about segways being allowed on trails/paths citing her recent siting of one. She also asked about the use of trails by groups of 10 or more, does this include local sports teams? Director McCarty resolved by stating that they required permits for that usage.
- Robert Reinsel questioned the alcohol usage policy; does this cover other rental venues? Should this apply to all parks? PRAB members discussed this issue, and the majority of members recommended to the Director that future rules allow for flexibility.
- Jon Stehle suggested that E-Cigarettes and other vapors be included into Voluntary Tobacco Free Zone section.
- Zinta Rodgers-Rickert suggested the use of the word *inhalant* to cover all usage.
- Evie Ifantides asked where these policies would be posted. Director McCarty noted that a shortened version would be posted at the parks themselves and a full version online.

#### **b) Park Steward Discussion**

Jon Stehle encouraged all PRAB board members to visit the “Our Parks, Our Future” website and log in for tracking purposes before January.

#### **c) Department Name Change**

Director McCarty stated the Strategic Plan identified that the department change the name to embrace the Cultural Arts programs offered. He noted that Alexandria parks and recreation departments in has moved towards this change. Director McCarty suggested staff generate names but encouraged board members to make suggestions via email prior to the next meeting.

#### **d) PRAB Award**

Chairman Knapp brought up the subject of the PRAB award and presented the idea of awarding this to Mayor Rob Letterer due to his work with advancing parks throughout the communities in the City.

### **5. Parks and Recreation Department Report**

Director Michael McCarty submitted his department report.

### **6. Stakeholder Updates**

#### **a) School Board – Robert Reinsel**

Robert Reinsel reported that the School Board had received the Strategic Master Plan tri-fold. He also reported that the cell tower had been approved by the City Council. He also mentioned that work is being done to move forward with a new Softball Press Box.

#### **b) Planning Commission – Joseph Harmon**

Joseph Harmon reported that the CIP been approved by the Planning Commission but needed prioritization by department. During the next meeting they will be going over chapters 1-3 of the Fairfax Boulevard Master Plan and will also be electing new officers in January.

#### **c) Senior Center – Jane Albro**

Jane Albro announced that the Thanksgiving Luncheon at the Senior Center was a success, and they are looking forward to their Christmas Luncheon on Friday December 19<sup>th</sup> and their New

Year's party on Wednesday December 31<sup>st</sup>. She also voiced concerns and questions raised by members of the Senior Center Council about opening the fitness facility to the public including access to the facility and maintenance of equipment. The Director addressed these concerns and also reminded PRAB that the issue was thoroughly discussed during the strategic planning process, including a special meeting with Senior Center Council.

**d) Community Appearance Committee – Kirk Holley**

Kirk Holley provided an update on the joint letter submitted to City Council about the possibility of the Surf Shop property be included in the Old Town Square property. The Mayor said it was something to be considered in the future. He also commented that the Zoning Re-Write Sub Committee would be looking at the language used in their plan specifically when it came to trail width.

**e) Commission on the Arts – Harry Wilbur**

Harry Wilbur was not able to attend the last meeting of the Commission on the Arts and therefore did not have anything to report.

**f) NVRPA – Brian Knapp**

Chairman Brian Knapp circulated a new NOVA Parks summary document and recommended that it please be distributed to the local community utilizing everyone's boards and commissions. He also recommended that everyone take the opportunity to visit Meadowlark Park and Bull Run Regional Park for their holiday light shows.

**7. Matters of the Members**

- Evie Ifantides- reminded everyone about Laying of the Wreaths in Arlington Cemetery on Saturday the 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Jon Stehl- noted that the Fairfax City Citizen for Smarter Growth Annual Holiday get together at Auld Shebeen on Wednesday the 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Jeff Ferrell-Fairfax HS hosting regional wrestling tournament the weekend of the 13<sup>th</sup> and the Baseball team is selling Christmas Trees.
- Rob Reinsel- Annual meeting at Blenheim for FCPS, which they enjoyed very much last year.
- Esther Nasjleti-thank you and good-bye!

**8. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.

**The next PRAB meeting will take place Thursday, January 8, 2015**

*Minutes prepared by Julie Miles*